



Quick Notes

from the Idaho Office of Highway Safety

June 6, 2011

Idaho Transportation Department - PO Box 7129 – Boise, ID 83707-1129
P: (208) 334-8100 F: (208) 334-4430 - - www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs

General Message from the Highway Safety Manager

Hi Highway Safety Partners,

The National Safety Council recently reported that on a national level motor vehicle deaths are down 4% in the first four months when compared to the same time period in 2010. The total number of fatalities from January through April of 2011 totaled 9,710. The April figure for 2011 was 12% lower than the 2009 figure. So how does Idaho look when compared to the rest of the nation?

During this same time period in Idaho the National Safety Council reports there were 31 fatalities from January through April of 2011. This figure is down 23% from the corresponding 4-month period in 2010. The April figure was 48% lower than the 2009 figure. Clearly Idaho is headed in the right direction. Massachusetts tied Idaho and only Montana had a larger percentage change. I believe it is the strong commitments and partnerships displayed by each of you in all the areas of enforcement, education, engineering and emergency response that is making a difference.

With summer coming (finally) upon us we will all have to keep our awareness sharp and continue the work of reducing traffic crashes. In the coming months I will share with you the eight strategies the Office of Highway Safety will embark upon with our safety partners as will all continue on our quest *Toward Zero Deaths* upon Idaho's roadways.

Take care and have a great week.

Brent Jennings, PE
Highway Safety Manager

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Commends Maine for Enacting Tough Ban on Texting While Driving

NHTSA 09-11 - Friday, June 3, 2011

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today applauded Maine Governor Paul LePage for signing a strong new law that prohibits texting while driving. The law makes Maine the 33rd state to prohibit texting behind the wheel. Under the new law, which takes effect in September 2011, violators will face a minimum fine of \$100.

"Distracted driving kills thousands of people every year on our roads and injures hundreds of thousands more," said Secretary LaHood. "By signing this tough texting ban into law today, Governor LePage has taken a crucial step to improve safety and save lives on Maine roads."

With the addition of Maine, 33 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam have now banned text messaging by all drivers. Eight states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands have prohibited all hand-held cell phone use while driving.

In 2009, Secretary LaHood launched a national anti-distracted driving campaign to combat the growing trend of dangerous distracted driving behavior in America. The U.S. DOT has launched a dedicated website, Distraction.gov, to provide the public with a comprehensive source of information on distracted driving. The Department has also hosted two national summits devoted to the issue, crafted sample legislation which states can use to adopt distracted driving laws, and initiated pilot law enforcement programs in Hartford, Conn., and Syracuse, NY modeled after the Department's successful efforts to increase seatbelt use and curb drunk driving.

In November, the Department of Transportation announced "Faces of Distracted Driving," a video series featuring people from across the country who have been injured or lost loved ones in distracted driving crashes. To watch videos from the "Faces of Distracted Driving" series and learn more about the U.S. Department of Transportation's campaign against distracted driving, visit www.distraction.gov.

States' Booster Seat Use Requirements

As of May 11, 2011, 47 States and the District of Columbia had enacted provisions in their child restraint laws requiring the use of a booster seat or other appropriate restraint device by children who have outgrown their forward-facing child safety seats, but who are still too small to use an adult seat belt system safely. Only Arizona, Florida and South Dakota had yet to enact such requirements.

According to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, children seated in a belt-positioning booster seat in the rear of the car are 45 percent less likely to be injured in a crash compared with children using a seat belt alone. Children riding in booster seats involved in side-impact crashes saw the greatest reduction in injury risk. The study results were published in the November 2009 issue of the journal *Pediatrics*.

On May 9, 2011, an upgraded requirement was enacted in Georgia, requiring children to be restrained in a child restraint device until age 8. The provision will take effect on July 1, 2011.

In 2010, no new state requirements were enacted, but 2009 saw extensive activity, with booster seat requirements taking effect in Alaska, Minnesota, Ohio and Texas.

Specifics vary widely from State to State, including age, height and weight requirements. NHTSA administers the Section 2011 Child Safety and Child Booster Seat Incentive Grant program. For FY 2010, 23 states and the District of Columbia were awarded Section 2011 grant funds totaling \$7 million. The recipients were: Alaska, Delaware, Washington, D.C., Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

More than 20 other States (Idaho is one of them), have enacted provisions requiring booster seat use but are not eligible for Section 2011 funds because their requirements do not extend to the necessary upper age, height or weight limit and/or have unacceptable provisions in their laws that compromise child passenger safety and render them ineligible.

For additional details on the provisions of State child restraint laws, please visit:
<http://www.iihs.org/laws/ChildRestraint.aspx>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If you would like to add an event to the calendar, please send an e-mail with the event details to lisa.losness@itd.idaho.gov

Date	Event Description
May 23-June 7, 2011	SEAT BELTS Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Lisa Losness, OHS GCO, lisa.losness@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-8103
June 9, 2011	ITSC (Idaho Traffic Safety Commission) – Spring meeting – Boise, ID. Location ISP Region 3
June 20, 2011	Ride to Work Day www.ridetowork.org
June 30-July 11, 2011	IMPAIRED DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Kevin Bechen, OHS GCO, kevin.bechen@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-4467
July 15-26, 2011	AGGRESSIVE DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Cecilia Awusie, OHS GCO, Cecilia.awusie@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-8112
Aug. 3, 2011	SHSP – committee chair meeting – 9:00-12:00 at ITD
Aug. 7 – 13, 2011	National Stop on Red Week Federal Highway Administration http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/redlight/outreach
Aug. 26-Sept. 6, 2011	IMPAIRED DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Kevin Bechen, OHS GCO, kevin.bechen@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-4467